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THE TURTLE SPEAKS TO ITS FRIENDS

*Due to the tremendous amount of material submitted for our special Byzantine issue, it was necessary to extend it into the November issue as well. The interest which is apparent in this long neglected field of numismatics is inspiring and it is hoped that ACCA members will provide the leadership in this area which is so badly needed.

*The December issue will be devoted to a fine monograph by Professor Tom Jones of the University of Minnesota, "Greek Imperial Coins and Their Mints." The series on Greek Numismatic Epigraphy by John E. Hartmann will be resumed and the regular features will appear.

*By the first of the year it is hoped that the **Turtle** will be delivered early in the month and advertisers are requested to observe the deadlines to enable the journal to go to press promptly.

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NUMISMATIC LIST OF THE EMPERORS OF BYZANTIUM, THESSALONICA, NICAEA, AND TREBIZOND, THE DESPOTS OF EPIRUS AND SEBASTOCRATORS OF THESSALY AND NEOPATRAS.

A

ALEXANDER, son of Basil I, 886--912? (with Leo VI); 912-913 (alone); (Augustus from ca. 879)

ALEXIUS I, COMNENUS, nephew of Isaac I, 1081-1118

ALEXIUS II, COMNENUS, son of Manuel I, 1180-1184

ALEXIUS III, ANGELUS, called Comnenus, brother of Isaac II, 1195-1203

ALEXIUS IV, son of Isaac II, 1203-1204

ALEXIUS V, DUCAS, Murtzuphlus, Feb.-April, 1204

ALEXIUS I, COMNENUS, 1204-1222 (Tr)

ALEXIUS II, 1297-1330 (Tr)

ALEXIUS III, Dec. 13, 1349-Mar. 20, 1390 (Tr)

ALEXIUS IV, 1417-1446 (Tr)

ANASTASIA, wife of Tiberius II, Constantine, ca. 578

ANASTASIA, daughter of Theophilus, ca. 829

ANASTASIA I, 491-518

ANASTASIA II, ARTEMIUS, 713-716

ANDRONICUS, son of Constantine X and Eudocia, 1067-1071 (with Romanus IV)

ANDRONICUS II, PALAELOGUS the 'Elder,' son of Michael VIII, 1282-1328 (With Michael VIII, 1273?-1282

ANDRONICUS III, PALAEOLOGUS, the 'Younger,' son of Michael IX, 1328-1341. (With Andronicus II, 1325-1328)

ANDRONICUS IV, PALAEOLOGUS, eldest son of John V, 1376-1379

ANDRONICUS I, GIDOS, 1222-1235 (Tr)

ANDRONICUS II, 1263-1266 (Tr)

ANDRONICUS III, 1330-Jan. 1332 (Tr)

ANNA, daughter of Theophilus (ca 829)

ANNA, July, 1341-Sept. 1342 (Tr)

ANNA OF SAVOY, (with her son John V.) 1341-1347

ANTHEMIUS, (Regent with Theodosius II), 408-414

ARCADIUS, 395-408

ARIADNE, daughter of Leo I, wife of Zeno.

ARTAVASDES, son-in-law of Leo III, 742?-744?

B

BARDANES, see Philippicus

BASIL I, THE MACEDONIAN, 867-886. (With Michael III, 866-867)

BASIL II, BULGAROKTONOS, son of Romanus II, 976-1025, with his brother Constantine VIII. (Crowned 960; co-Emperor with Romanus II, Nicephorus II and John I)

BASIL, Sept., 1332-April, 1340 (Tr)

BASILISCUS, Usurper, brother of Verina, 475-476

C

CHRISTOPHER, son of Romanus I, 921-931

CONSTANS II, (Constantinus III), son of Heraclius Constantine, 641-668

CONSTANTINA, wife of Maurice Tiberius

CONSTANTINE I, THE GREAT, died 337

CONSTANTINE, son of Leo V, 813-820 (with his father)

CONSTANTINE, son of Theophilus, ca. 832?- ca. 839? (with his father)
CONSTANTINE, son of Basil I and Maria, Augustus, 869; died 879
CONSTANTINE, son of Romanus I, 924-945
CONSTANTINE, son of Constantius X and Eudocia, 1067-1071 (with Eudocia and with Romanus IV)
CONSTANTINE, son of Michael VII, associated with Alexius I, ca. 1081
CONSTANTINE III, see Constans II
CONSTANTINE IV, POGONATUS, son of Constans II, 668-685. (With Constans II from 684)
CONSTANTINE V, COPRONYMUS, son of Leo III, 741?-775). (With his father from 720)
CONSTANTINE VI, son of Leo IV, 780-797. (With his father from 776)
CONSTANTINE VII, PORPHYROGENITUS, son of Leo VI, 913-959. (With his father, 911-912)
CONSTANTINE VIII, son of Romanus II, 1025-1028. (Crowned 961; co-Emperor with Romanus II, Nicephorus II and John I; with his brother Basil II, 976-1025)
CONSTANTINE IX, Monomachus-1042-1055
CONSTANTINE X, Ducas, 1059-1067
CONSTANTINE XI, DRAGASES PALAEOLOGUS, brother of John VIII, 1448-1453
CONSTANTINE ANGELUS, 1296-1303 (NT)
CONSTANTIUS, 337-361, sole emperor after 351

D

DAVID, 1458-1461 (Tr)
DEMETRIUS, 1244-1246 (Thes)

E

EUDOCIA, first wife of Heraclius, died 612
EUDOCIA, wife of Arcadius
EUDOCIA INGERINA, second wife of Basil I
EUDOCIA, wife, Theodosius II
EUDOCIA MAKREMBOLITISSA, widow of Constantine X, May-Dec., 1067 (with her sons Michael VII and Constantine); wife of Romanus IV
EUPHEMIA, wife of Justin I

G

GEORGE, 1266-1280 (Tr)

H

HELENA (Irene), wife of Manuel II
HELENA, wife of Constantine VII
HERACLIUS, 610-641
HERACLIUS, son of Constans II, 659-668; 558-680? (with Constantine IV)
HERACLIUS CONSTANTINE, son of Heraclius and Eudocia, 613-641
HERACL(E)ONAS (Heraclius), son of Heraclius and Martina, crowned 638

I

IRENE OF ATHENS, wife of Leo IV, 780-797 (with her son Constantine VI), 797-802
IRENE DUKAINA, wife of Alexius I, died 1123
IRENE, second wife of Andronicus II, ca. 1295
IRENE (Helena), wife of Manuel II
IRENE PALEOLOGINA, April, 1340-July, 1341 (Tr)

ISAAC I, COMNENUS, 1057-1059

ISAAC II, ANGELUS, 1185-1195 (first reign); 1203 - 1204 (second reign)

ISAAC DUCAS COMNENUS, 'Emperor' in Cyprus, 1184-1191

J

JOHN I, ZIMISCES, 969-976

JOHN II, COMNENUS, son of Alexius I, 1118-1143. (With his father from 1092)

JOHN V, PALAEOLOGUS, son of Andronicus III, 1341-1391

JOHN VI, CANTACUZENUS, 1341-1354

JOHN VIII, PALAEOLOGUS, son of Manuel II, 1423-1448. (With his father 1421-1423)

JOHN I ('III') DUCAS VATATZES, 1222- Oct. 30, 1254 (Nic)

JOHN II ('IV') LASCARIS, 1258-1259 (Nic)

JOHN I, ANGELUS COMNENUS, 1271-1296 (NT)

JOHN II, ANGELUS COMNENUS, 1303-1318 (NT)

JOHN ANGELUS (as Emperor), 1232-1243; (as Despot of Thessalonica, 1244)

JOHN I AXUCHOS, 1235-1238 (Tr)

JOHN II, 1280-1297 (Tr)

JOHN III, Sept. 4, 1342- May 3, 1344 (Tr)

JOHN IV (Kalojoannes), 1446-1458 (Tr)

JOVIAN, 363-364, sole Emperor

JULIAN, the "Apostate" 361-363, sole Emperor

JUSTIN I, 518-527

JUSTIN II, nephew of Justinian I, 565-578

JUSTINIAN I, nephew of Justin I, 527-565

JUSTINIAN II, son of Constantine IV, first reign, 685-695; second reign, 705-711. (With his father from 680).

L

LATIN EMPERORS OF CONSTANTINOPLE, 1204-1261

LEO I, 457-474

LEO II, 474

LEO III, THE 'ISAURIAN' (Syrian), 717-741

LEO IV, THE KHAZAR, son of Constantine V, 775-780. (With his father from 751)

LEO V, THE ARMENIAN, 813-820

LEO VI, THE WISE, son of Basil I (or Michael III) and Eudocia Ingerina, 886-912. (With Basil I, 870-886)

LEONTIA, wife of Phocas

LEONTIUS, 695-698

LEONTIUS, usurper beheaded by Zeno.

M

MANKAPHAS, Theodore, pretender, 1189 and later

MANUEL I, COMNENUS, son of John II, 1143-1180

MANUEL II, PALAEOLOGUS, son of John V, 1391-1423 (died 1425)

MANUEL, 1230-1237 (Epirus)

MANUEL, ANGELUS COMNENUS DUCAS, 1230-1232 (Thes)

MANUEL I, 1238-1263 (Tr)

MANUEL II, Jan.-Sept., 1332 (Tr)

MANUEL III, 1390-1417 (Tr)

MARCIAN, 450-457

MARIA OF ANTIOCH, wife of Michael VII and of Nicephorus III, regent 1180-1182

MARCUS, son of Basiliskus and Zenonis
MARTINA, second wife of Heraclius, married 614
MATTHEW, CANTACUZENOS, son of John VI, with his father from 1353
MAURICE TIBERIUS, 582-602
MICHAEL I, RHANGABES, brother-in-law of Stauracius, 811-813
MICHAEL II, THE AMORIAN, 820-829
MICHAEL III, THE DRUNKARD, son of Theophilus, 842-867. (With his father 840-842; with his mother Theodora, 842-856; with Basil I, 866-867)
MICHAEL IV, THE PAPHLAGONIAN, 1034-1041
MICHAEL V, KALAPHATES, nephew of Michael IV, 1041-1042
MICHAEL VI, STRATIOTICUS, 1056-1057
MICHAEL VII, DUCAS (Parapinakes), son of Constantine X and Eudocia, 1071-1078. (With his mother and with Romanus IV, 1067-1071)
MICHAEL VIII, PALAEOLOGUS, Jan., 1260 - Aug., 1261 (Nic). Emperor of Byz. 1261-1282
MICHAEL IX, son of Andronicus II, 1295-1320 (with his father)
MICHAEL I, ANGELUS COMNENUS DUCAS, 1205-1214 (Epirus)
MICHAEL II, 1237-1271 (Epirus)
MICHAEL, May, 1344-Dec. 13, 1349 (Tr)

N

NICEPHORUS, son of Artavasdes, 7427-744? (with his father)
NICEPHORUS I, 802-811
NICEPHORUS II, PHOCAS, 963-969
NICEPHORUS III, BOTANIATES, 1078-1081
NICEPHORUS MELISSENUS, pretender, 1080-1081
NICEPHORUS I, 1271-1296 (Epirus)

P

PHILIPPICUS (Bardanes), 711-713
PHOCAS, 602-610
PULCHERIA, wife of Marcian (daughter of Arcadius, Augusta from 414, died 453)

R

ROMANUS I, 919-944
ROMANUS II, son of Constantine VII, 959-963. (With his father, 945-959)
ROMANUS III, ARGYRUS, 1028-1034
ROMANUS IV, DIOGENES, 1067-1071

S

SOPHIA, wife of Justin II (coregent with Tiberius II, 574-578)
STAURACIUS, son of Nicephorus I, 803-811 (with his father) 811 alone
STEPHEN, son of Romanus I, 924-945

T

THECLA, daughter of Theophilus, 842-856 (with her mother Theodora and Michael III)
THEODORA, wife of Justinian I, died 548
THEODORA, wife of Theophilus, married 821?; regent with her son Michael III, 842-856
THEODORA, daughter of Constantine VIII, 1055-1056

(with her sister Zoe, April-June, 1042)

THEODORA, ca. 1285 (Tr)

THEODORA, ANGELUS COMNENUS DUCAS, 1214-1230 (Epirus and Thessalonica) Emperor of Thes. 1222-1230

THEODORE I, LASCARIS, 1204-1222 (crowned 1206) (Nic)

THEODORE II, DUCAS LASCARIS, 1254-Aug., 1258 (Nic)

THEODOSIUS I, THE GREAT, 379-395. Sole Emperor after 392

THEODOSIUS II, 408-450

THEODOSIUS, son of Maurice Tiberius, died 602

THEODOSIUS III, OF ADRAMYTIUM, 716-717

THEOPHANO, widow of Romanus II, regent for her sons Basil II and Constantine VIII, March-Aug., 963. (Married Nicephorus II, Sept., 963)

THEOPHILUS, son of Michael II, 829-842. (With his father, 821?-829

THEOPHYLACTUS, son of Michael I, 811-813 (with his father)

THOMAS, ANGELUS, 1296-1310 (Epirus). Succeeded by rulers of House of Orsini

TIBERIUS, son of Constans II, 659-668; 668-680? (with Constantine IV)

TIBERIUS, son of Justinian II, 705-711 (with his father)

TIBERIUS II, CONSTANTINE, 578-582 (Caesar under Justin II, 574-578)

TIBERIUS III, APSIMARUS, 698-705

V

VALENS, 364-378

VERINA, wife of Leo I. died *circa* 484

VITALIAN, pretender, 514-515

Z

ZENO, 474-491

ZOE, daughter of Constantine VIII, April-June, 1042 (with her sister Theodora)

ZOE CARBOPSINA (Carbonopsis), mother of Constantine VII, 913-919 (with her son)

ZENONIS, wife of Basiliskus

NOTE FOR THE USER

Bear in mind that this list includes only members of the Imperial Byzantine dynasties whose names appear, or *could have appeared*, on coins.

1. Simple listings without any descriptive matter in parentheses are used only for emperors, empresses, heirs and co-regents of the Byzantine Empire.

2. Members of the dynasties of the "splinter empires" are indicated by the following parenthetical notes:

(Tr) = Empire of Trebizond
(Nic) = Empire of Nicaea
(Epirus) = Despotate of Epirus
(NT) = Duchy of Neopatras and Thessaly

3. In alphabetizing the emperors of the same name, e.g. those known as John, the emperors of Byzantium precede those of the "splinter empires."

4. The emperors of Nicaea who were later considered to be emperors of Byzantium are denoted by a second dynastic number in parentheses and quotation marks.

A BYZANTINE LEAD SEAL FROM TYDA IN LESBOS

by Lewis Henry

As an illustration of the rising importance of the local numismatic collections of Greece, Mr. Miltes Paraskevaides was kind enough to send us the picture and transcription of the inscription of a unique byzantine lead seal of the twelfth century AD found by Mr. John Kokkoutas at the site called "Frankish Chapel" of the village of Tyda-Lisboriou (island of Lesbos). This seal was given to the numismatic collection of the village in 1963.

. . . . . .
ου σφράγισ-
μα τοῦ μονο-
τρόπου

Κατακαλ-
ὼν πρίν, νῦν
δὲ Χαριτω-
νύμου.

The text of the seal is metrical and one or two words are missing at the beginning. These cannot be restored since this is the unique known specimen of the seal type. The transcription of the text has been done by Mr. Nickolas Oikonomides, a member of the *Center of Byzantine Research* in Athens. (See Arch. Reports 1962-1963, p.29).

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NUMISMATIC EPIGRAPHY AND THE BYZANTINE INSCRIPTIONS OF THE RINGS FROM KOMAN IN ALBANIA

by Al. N. Oikonomides

The recent series on Greek numismatic epigraphy written by John E. Hartmann appearing in the *Voice of the Turtle* is, strangely enough, the first serious treatment of coin inscriptions and that branch of epigraphy known as *Numismatic Epigraphy*. The inscriptions in this group provide a field of epigraphical study neglected by students of classical and Byzantine epigraphy for no apparent reason other than the mistaken belief that the majority of coin inscriptions can add nothing to our knowledge of history.

How wrong this is has been proved by now by the brilliant studies of scholars who occupied themselves with the history of the Greek states in Bactria and India, where their main sources of information were the coins issued by these otherwise unknown states and the inscriptions appearing on them. History has also benefited from the study of the coin inscriptions of the Parthian empire and the Athenian archons of the Hellenistic age, but to my knowledge, nothing important has yet been done to further our knowledge of Byzantium and the Byzantine states, created after the conquest of Constantinople by the Latins in 1204, by means of numismatic epigraphy.

As an example of how important the study of numismatic epigraphy can be for the historical interpretation of other inscribed monuments, I would like to bring up again the group of inscribed rings found in the excavations of graves at Koman in Albania.

KEB | OHΘH | ΛNΛ

The ring illustrated in Figure 1 rightfully occupies the place of the most widely misinterpreted minor epigraphical document in the world. For nearly half a century it was considered to be "the unique inscription in the Illyrian language"

and its misread text gave birth to fantastic words and more than a decade filled with articles and linguistic theories. All of this literature was finally discarded when in 1959 the Bulgarian epigraphist I. Ognenova revealed to the astonishment of linguists and philologists that what they considered to be an Illyrian inscription was actually a Byzantine one and that its text made a great deal of sense in Byzantine Greek although it was only a nonsense puzzle in the unknown "Illyrian language."

In two articles published in 1962 and one in 1963, I carried the study of the inscribed rings found in the graves of the cemetery of Koman in Albania still further. In the first article I indicated that the *A*'s in line 3 of the inscription, in what Ognenova read as the word *ANA* were not *A*'s at all, but decorative signs framing the N which was the initial of the name of the owner. Decorative signs also appear framing the letters *AN* in the third line of a similar ring also published by Ognenova as a parallel to the Koman ring. This ring is now in the Byzantine Museum of Athens.

In the second article I published the texts of all four inscriptions in corrected form from the four rings found in the tombs at Koman. At this time, before having used the evidence from numusmatic inscriptions, I accepted the dates proposed by Ognenova, that is, from the six to seventh centuries AD. But I have had the opportunity to learn since that time, by studying coin inscriptions, that this dating is supported neither by the letter forms nor by the formula of the text inscribed on the rings. It is true that Ognenova gave references which were to demonstrate that the text formula was used for inscriptions on minor jewelry as early as the fourth and fifth centuries AD. While this may be true, the epigraphical appearance of the form *R* for the Greek *B* (a form characteristic of all four ring inscriptions) cannot be dated before the period of the emperor John I Zimiskes (969-976) (see W. Wroth, IBC, p. cvii) and this dating is 3 centuries later than that proposed by Ognenova and accepted in my earlier article.

The revised dating brings us closer to the dates proposed by H. Ceka for the cemetery of Koman (13th to 15th centuries, cf. Ognenova in *Bulletin de Correspondence Hellenique 83*, 1959, p. 797) and gives us the opportunity to study the problem further within its historical framework, thanks to observations made possible by knowledge of numismatic inscriptions of the period.

The fact that the four inscribed Byzantine rings were found in the same cemetery and that they are dated during the same

Fig. 1

Fig. 3

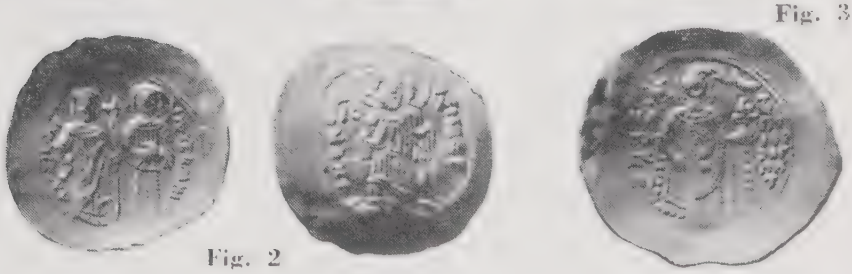

Fig. 2

1. ALEXIUS I COMNENUS (1081-1118) *Solidus concave.*
℟. ✠ KEPO – HΘEI A | ΛE | ΞIW | ΔEC | ΠO |
TH – TW | KO | MNH | NW

2. MANUEL I COMNENUS (1143-1180) *Solidus concave.*
℟. ✠ KEPO – HΘEI MA | NꝊH | ΔEC | ΠO –
ꝶ | ΠO | ꝟΦV | POΓ | ꝋNNH | ꝶ

3. ALEXIUS ΠI ANGELUS (1195-1203) *Solidus concave.*
℟. ✠ KEPO – HΘEI AΛEΞIWΔEC ꝶKOMNH

period also gives us one additional piece of information. Is it not possible to consider them as having belonged to Byzantine soldiers buried sometime after the tenth century in a cemetery which had been in constant use from early antiquity?

This is proposed as a simple hypothesis, but possibly it is the unique explanation based on historical fact to be submitted to date. We know from Anna Comnena that at the start of her father's reign (Alexius Comnenus 1081-1118) the northern Albanian coast was the scene of battles between the armies of the invading Normans and the defending Byzantines. We also know from the coins of Alexius and his successors (Figure 2) that the legend "Lord help" was especially popular during this period of desperation for the Empire. After his defeat at Dyrrhachium (October 1081) Alexius (as we know thanks to the study of Era Vranouse) had called all the reserves of Byzantine guards stationed in the area to join his army and then withdrew his forces toward Ochris. A great part of his army scattered toward the north after the defeat in an effort to reach

the northern forts. We also know that even many years later the highlands were not in the hands of the Normans, presumably because they were still defended by Byzantine soldiers.

The village of Koman is in the mountainous region of Kalaja e Dalmaces, not far from Scutari. I believe it is possible that the four men who once owned the rings inscribed with the legend which also appears on the coinage of Alexius were once a part of the scattered army, or soldiers of a Byzantine reserve unit located in the vicinity. Unfortunately the publication of the newer finds from the cemetery at Koman is not available so we cannot check to see if this theory can stand based on other types of evidence as well.

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COIN TOPICS

Edited by C. C. Woods

Perhaps the most lasting of Constantine's many reforms was that of the currency system. The gold coin called the *solidus* which formed the base of that system was minted on the same weight standard without debasement for over seven hundred and fifty years. The coin was first minted in 312 (There are scholars who dispute this date, but they are in a minority). Patrick Bruun, in his recently published monograph on the Constantinian chronology, accepts 311/12 as the date of the first solidi. The coin was finally debased in 1081 only after the Empire had suffered its crushing defeat at Manzikert and had lost almost all of Asia Minor.

The solidus was minted at the rate of 72 to the Roman Libre or pound (327.6 grams) so that each coin weighed 1/72 of the pound (4.55 grams). It was thus lighter than the old Roman Imperial Aureii which had been minted at the rate of forty-two to the pound (7.80 grams) during the early Principate and which had gradually fallen to a point where it weighed only 6.55 grams by the time of Caracalla.

The literary sources can be confusing when they refer to coins over this long period. While the name was officially the solidus, most Byzantine writers referred to it as a *nomisma* (which is the classical Greek word simply for coin) or occasionally in plural as *nomismata*. It is mute evidence indeed that the gold coin was so stable, so trustworthy, that when a writer referred to a coin he merely used the term "the coin." Non-Byzantine writers called the coin a *Bezant* (with various spellings) and this was the only coin of real power in Western Europe for many centuries.

The Byzantine currency system as it evolved from the Constantinian reform differed markedly from both the Roman and the old Greek systems which had preceded it. Silver, while not unused, was not a major coinage metal of Byzantium. The place of silver in the currency system is still a matter of some dispute among scholars. Gold formed the basis of the system and the *solidus* the sole denomination, with the exception of rare occasions when halves (*semisses*) or thirds (*tremisses*) were minted. Bronze, of course, played its usual role as a small change token coinage.

The coin illustrated here (Fig. 1) is the reverse of a solidus of Heraclius (610-641). There are several features to note. The inscription is VICTORIA AVGVS. Those

familiar with Roman Imperial coins will recognize the long familiar coin legend which had been a favorite since the time of Augustus. Note that the Latin language is still used. The type has now become the Cross. The CONOR should be sep-

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

arated into CON for Constantinople, the mint-mark, a notion introduced in the late third century and continued throughout Byzantine history; and OB the Greek Omicron-Beta, 72, standing for the number of coins minted from the pound.

It can be seen easily through this use of an archaic coin legend in a language no longer current among the people, combined with the type of the Cross and with Greek rather than Roman numerals, to just how great an extent Byzantium was the melding of Roman and Greek cultures with an overlay of Christianity.

These illustrations further show Byzantine style as executed on the solidi. Figure 2 is a coin of the emperor Phocas (602-

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

610) and Figure 3 is a coin of Constantine III (641-668). Note that while the style has become stereotyped it is still possible to distinguish between emperors by portraiture.

Figure 4 is a coin of John I (1222-1254)) during the period of the Frankish occupation of Constantinople when the Byzantine Imperial court was located at Nicaea. The coin is still on the same weight standard as the solidus, but is now on a larger and thinner flan. The metal is an electrum (probably a deliberate rather than natural alloy) rather than gold. The deterioration of artistic style is most striking. The two figures represent the emperor and the Virgin Mary who is crowning him.

NOTES ON ROMAN PORTRAITS

by John E. Hartmann

Aside from Professor A. H. M. Jones' pointed questions,[1] numismatic scholars seem agreed that Roman Imperial coin was a primary medium of official communications from the Government. A good deal of research has been devoted to careful analyses of inscriptions and reverse types and from them much has been learned about Imperial activities and attitudes. When such information is correlated with the literary sources the coins have been able to demonstrate a more continuous history of events of a given reign than could possibly have been compiled without them.

The inscriptions and reverse types have revealed a good deal about how a given emperor wanted himself to appear before the populace. We can be sure that the concept of "image" is not a twentieth century invention, but one which was fully recognized and carefully used by various emperors.

As the coins have been scrutinized in ever greater detail for the bits of history they yield, one important facet has been overlooked, no doubt because it is so obvious, and it is here proposed that the coins can be restudied with possible fruitful results.

The most prominent detail of the coin is the obverse portrait. The best artistic efforts have been marshalled to create a likeness that is almost photographic in detail. Yet the obverse portrait has been the most casually treated feature of the Roman Imperial coin.

Consider that the portraits present considerable variety of execution. Ignoring for the moment, whether the emperor faces left or right, we find either his head or his bust. He may be bare-headed. He may wear the laurels or the radiate crown. He might be draped with a toga or armoured with cuirass and paludamentum. It is certain that each representation was intended to convey some special meaning.

Mattingly[2] suggests that the bare head indicates the emperor in the role of "Princeps," the constitutional head of the state. The laureate head indicates the imperator: the victor in battle. Assimilation with the Sun God is suggested by the radiate crown, while the cuirass depicts the general. The bare or toga'd bust might represent the hero.

It is certain that the entire coin was intended to participate in the coin's acknowledged objective of presenting the government as it wished itself to be seen. Foremost on the coin, most striking and immediate in its appearance, is the obverse portrait. The casual attention paid to its role on the coin has thus caused the coin to lose some of the meaning which it can yet be forced to disclose.

(Continued on p. 274)

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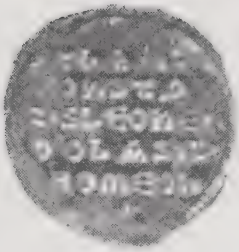

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No recent attempt has been made to harmonize the portrait with the other details of the coin. Roman coins were designed according to Greek artistic standards which required that any work of art be created as a harmonious whole. Casual treatment of the obverse has also led to observing the coin in its parts rather than analyzing it in its entirety.

Possible Approaches to Future Research

The position taken by the compilers of the *British Museum Catalog* and the *Roman Imperial Coins* in which Rome is regarded as a central mint has been modified to some extent by Mattingly himself.[3] In 1960, toward the end of his life, the book, *Roman Coins* carried a much more tolerant view of the problem of how many branch mints there were and where they might have been located.

Whether official coins were emitted from a single mint, Rome, or from several branch mints striking without discernible distinguishing features is one of the unsolved problems of the Imperial coins. One can argue from either position with conviction, but from neither position can anything but circumstantial and ephemeral evidence be marshalled.

Can the diversity of obverse portraits give any insight into this problem? The answer is unknown: it has never been investigated.

The failure to harmonize the portraits with the reverse types opens another area of possible investigation. It is known, for example, that the radiate head appeared on dupondii during the reign of Nero and thereafter. The argument that this was solely a denomination indicator does not stand up. Dupondii were distinguished from the As by color. Not all dupondii bore the radiate head.

No study has been published regarding the associations of various obverse postures with specific reverse types. Perhaps there are no such associations, but again, if there are, what is there to be learned from them? The subject is worthy of investigation.

The use of the radiate crown has never been fully explored. While there seems no reason to doubt that it is representative of Sun worship and the assimilation of Sun attributes by the emperor, it also indicates oriental monarchy and absolutism. Such ideas were foreign to the Roman mind. Why did the emperors choose to use this device?

Perhaps too, the many sweeping changes of policy that were introduced during the reign of Caracalla might better be illuminated if the radiate head ceased to be the denomination indicator of a new coin and was investigated as to its place in Imperial policy and representation.

What else can be said about the use of other styles of por-

(Continued on p. 276)

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traiture? Were certain representations favored over others by individual emperors? Was a peculiar style reserved for gold or silver or bronze coins or is there no discernible pattern? If these questions have been investigated, the results have not been published.

Conclusion

There remain questions about the Roman official coinage and its place in both society and the economy that have not yet been fully explored. The obverse portraits as individual features as well as an attempt to harmonize the diversity of these representations with the remainder of the coin seem eminently worthy of investigation.

It might be possible through a detailed analysis of coins by reigns to detect patterns which can give historians a greater insight into the psychology of the reigning emperor and the policies of his government. A careful scrutiny of the whole coin might bring to light details of style, fabric and pattern that have thus far been overlooked. Such discoveries might lead to new knowledge of Rome and its coins.

NOTES:

[1] Jones, A. H. M., "Numismatics in History," an essay published in ESSAYS IN ROMAN COINAGE, Oxford, 1956

[2] Mattingly, Harold. ROMAN COINS 2nd Ed., Chicago, 1960 p. 143

[3] *Op. Cit.* p. 138 ff.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Earle R. Caley, METROLOGICAL TABLES, NNM 154, American Numismatic Society, New York, 1965

Those who wish to see numismatics become a science in the true sense of the word are already much indebted to Mr. Caley, who in two previous monographs in this same series, has given us the only reliable modern information on the chemical composition of Parthian and Roman orichalcum coins.

The present work is precisely what its title implies, a series of conversion tables which permit the user to convert from one weight and measure system to another. Since weights are found expressed, in grains, grammes and sometimes scruples and diameters are expressed in inches (decimal) millimeters, and even by Mionnet's horrible scale, conversion from one to another system is necessary. This handbook of tables will be most useful therefore.

C. S. S. Lyon, THE ESTIMATION OF THE NUMBER OF DIES EMPLOYED IN A COINAGE, "*Numismatic Circular*" Vol. LXXIII, No. 9. September 1965.

The author demonstrates how statistics can be employed to determine the number of possible dies used in a coinage by sampling a relatively small universe of coins of the same issue.

Readers of the *Turtle* should devote careful study to this short article as it lucidly sets forth the most modern approach to the problem of dies. This is an important step toward the solution of a major numismatic problem, namely the quantity of money in circulation in ancient times. Once one is able to arrive at a reasonable hypothesis regarding the number of coins possible from a single die and combine this with the number of presumed dies, a general notion of a total coinage can be calculated.

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Ratto: **Monnaies Byzantines,** 151 pp., 68 plates. A standard reference 17.50

Sabatier: **Description Generale des Monnaies Byzantines,** 2 vols., 720 pp., 70 plates. A standard reference 30.00

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The Agora and the Forum

In Athens men met in the Agora and in Rome, affairs of business and state were debated in the Forum. So "Voice of the Turtle" asks that members write us their views. These will be published for open consideration and discussion.

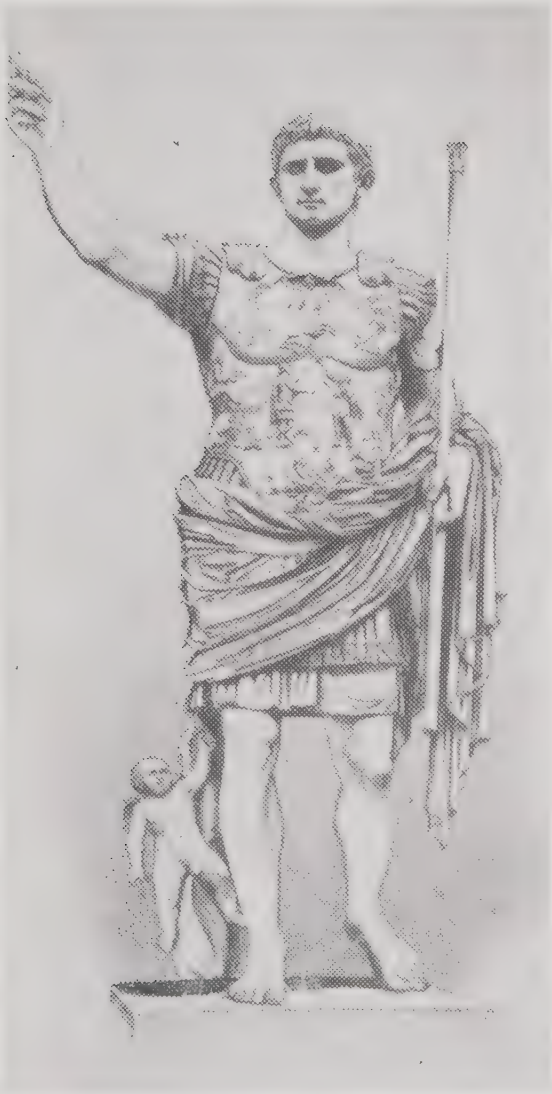
In reply to Mr. Robert Cresap's query in the "Forum," *Turtle* IV. p. 179, I should like to say that such 3 dimensional objects as he suggested are, to my knowledge, acceptable.

I am certainly not a "professional" exhibitor, though I have been exhibiting locally for the past 3 years. In fact I have been collecting coins only 5 years and Ancients 3 years. This year I came up with a display of Ancient Coins which has been fortunate enough to win "Best In Show" at every competitive Coin Show in which it has been entered, to date that number being six. This was the first time for me in the use of three dimensional objects as a part of a display and I was pleasantly surprised as to how much they enhance any display.

I thought your readers might be interested in the make up of this display, so the following is a description of what I have done. The theme is simply "Ancient Coins"; a panoramic backdrop was made displaying five scenes, each scene related to a coin in the first case. A description of the scene was written on the scene and above this description a line drawing in ink of the coin to be seen in the case. In the case was the coin, on either side of it a line drawing of the obverse and reverse. Below this was a description of the coin and the translation of the legends as well as an explanation of the meaning of symbols found upon the coin. To catch the viewer's eye, a rotating turntable with two plastic models of Roman Gladiators in combat was made and tied into the exhibit by displaying a coin with gladiators on it, in the second case. The second case gave a typical translation of a Roman coin and short anecdotes about other ancients of the period not directly related to the scenes on the Panorama. All the drawings and paintings were done by myself.

For those not having any artistic inclinations, I recommend the tracing of line drawings from books and cutting and pasting of ancient scenes for display purposes. Personally, I don't recommend photographs of coins, because I believe a line drawing is less distracting to the viewer, than the highlights and shadows found in the photograph. A line drawing is uncluttered showing to the best advantage the design upon the coin. I have only one problem with this three dimensional display. Children are fascinated by the models and have a compelling urge to touch them. WALTER MATTFELD, Santa Barbara, Cal.

ACCA MEMBER WALTER MATTFELD WITH HIS PRIZE WINNING EXHIBIT OF ROMAN COINS.



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The duties of Secretary have been accepted by Mrs. June Woods of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her appointment was officially announced by Mr. Broughton at the ACCA convocation held in conjunction with the ANA convention in Houston this summer.

Mrs. Woods is well qualified for her new duties. Before her marriage she was employed as a secretary, and she knows ancient coin collectors well as her husband, Calvin Woods, is a charter member of the ACCA, secretary pro-tem of the Minnesota chapter and Coordinator of the Local Chapters for the national organization.

While there are a number of women in the ACCA, Mrs. Woods is the first to assume executive responsibilities. It is assured that the distaff point of view will bring fresh insights within the organization.

Please note that dues and subscription renewals should still be sent directly to Lewis Henry at Argonaut, Inc., Publishers, together with change of address notices and any business matters. Until a treasurer is appointed for the club, Mr. Henry will continue to take care of this aspect. Inquiries about club matters in general should go to Mrs. Woods, however, and editorial material should continue to be sent to the editor, John Hartmann.

* * *

Members are reminded that their dues and renewals should be paid promptly upon receipt of the invoice in order to enable the *Turtle* and the ACCA to continue to grow.

* * *

Mr. Barton Lewis advises that the Nebraska chapter is about to resume activity after a summer respite. He especially urges that members living in the Omaha area contact him at 1340 South 49th Street, Lincoln, Neb. The possibility of alternate meetings between Lincoln and Omaha exists if more members from Omaha respond.

* * *

In San Francisco, Mr. Crouch has recently been hospitalized. He is badly in need of assistance. There are over 40 members in the Bay area and this chapter should be one of our most flourishing. If you can help John, contact him at 324 Avalon Drive, South San Francisco.

* * *

The first meeting of the Chicago chapter was held in the offices of Argonaut, Inc., Publishers on October 27th. Some members brought their coins for display, but the meeting was primarily devoted to laying the groundwork for future gatherings. Anyone in the metropolitan Chicago area is asked to contact Al. Oikonomides (MI 2-8042) if he wishes to join the group which promises to be a large one.

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